

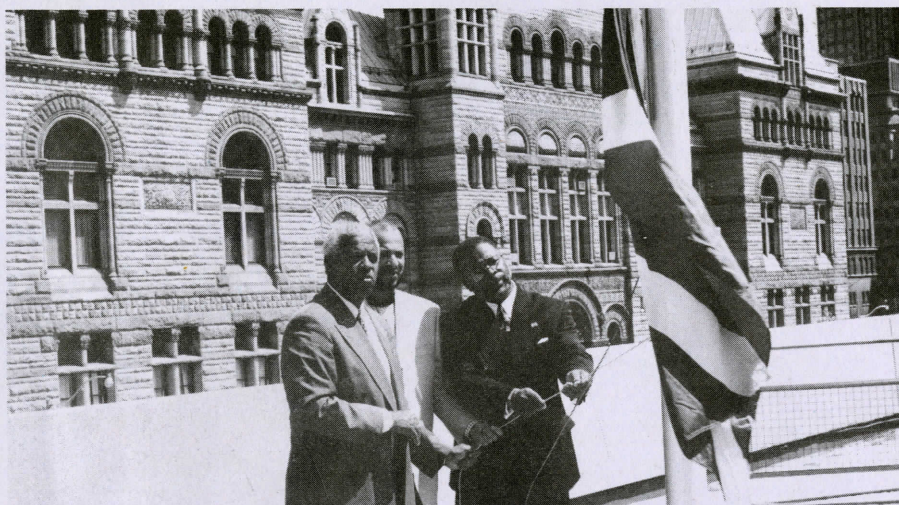
IN FOCUS

Special 36th year Anniversary Issue!!!

The Official Publication
of the Jamaican
Canadian Association

August 1998

SERVING THE BLACK AND CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY FOR OVER 35 YEARS



The annual flag raising ceremony held Sunday, August 2 at City Hall marked the 36th Anniversary of Independence. Following the ceremony, an "Independence through Education" service was held at the St. Paul's Anglican Church.

Joined by the Honourable Alvin Curling, MPP (left), and the Honourable Herman LaMont, Consul General of Jamaica (right), JCA's president Herman Stewart lead the events commemorating this year's historic occasion.

Countdown to Raffle!!!

by Patricia Williams

"Imagine yourself in a Mercury Mystique" is the slogan for the 1998 car raffle. Ticket sales for the first two months were very poor and slowly picked up in July. The Fundraising Committee has been working very hard to develop new methods of increasing ticket sales. We have also received a lot of support from JCA membership and their friends, for which

we are extremely grateful. The question is "will we meet our objective of \$100,000 in ticket sales?"

Although we are moving forward with a great deal of optimism, it is difficult to predict, keeping in mind our expenses for the purchase of the car and cruise. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be approximately one week from the August 29 draw date. Only then will we truly realize our hard work.

At this time, I must once again appeal to all of you to go one step further. Ask a friend, relative, even a co-worker to help. All of our members would have received a letter of appeal from the president. All of you are urged to join our ticket agents and zone

captains in helping to increase ticket sales.

We thank you for your help, but please don't stop now. There is always one more ticket, or one more book you will be able to sell.

Don't forget the fundraising dance that will be held at the OFL building, 15 Gervais Drive, Don Mills on the 29th of August. Donations: \$15- Contact the JCA for Dance tickets sales and distribution.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE ATTEND

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

Sunday August 30, 1998 - 2:00 pm
JCA Centre
995 Arrow Road

(416) 746-5772

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Editorial

by Lisa Chin Quee

By now the news of Toronto's immigrant population rising to 54% by the year 2000, has brought forth different opinions and discussions. In fact, I remember, reading the article and feeling a sense of enthusiasm and optimism, for the impact of this changing demographics can be tremendous for the entire Black and Caribbean community; for my generation, and those to come.

The Study Together We Are One: A Summary Paper On Diversity In Toronto was prepared for our mayor Mel Lastman by Tim Rees, from the Access and Equity Centre, in June. In summary it stated that Toronto is the most diverse city in the world. In 1961, non whites comprised 3% of Toronto's population, in 1991 it was 30% and it is projected that non whites will comprise 54% of the population. Of the 1.3 million individuals who identified themselves as visible minorities on the 1996 census, one fifth were Black (274,935), one quarter were of Chinese origin (335,185) and another quarter were South Asian (329,840). Toronto is home to 42% of the total non-white population in Canada, an almost half of the South Asian and Black population live in Toronto.

What could these figures mean to the Caribbean and Black community? A great deal. Within the next five years visible minority communities will have greater political power. It means organizations such as the JCA will no longer be viewed as "special interest" groups when it comes to public funding and the amount of money to be allocated for our community needs.

Furthermore, for those in their 30's, and the changing workforce with the retirement of baby boomers, there will be an explosion of employment

opportunities. Opportunities that were once filled only by those of the dominant group will have to include visible minorities to create equity in the workplace. There will also be an increased need for entrepreneurial efforts to cater to the various cultural needs.

What should this mean for our

"Within the next 5 years visible minority communities will have greater political power"

community? It is often stated that information is power. Here we have the information, and we must use it to strategically place ourselves to be beneficiaries of these changes. Within the next five years JCA needs to develop itself as a powerful broker to our community by increasing the support of its community members. Individuals must arm themselves with the skills required in this workforce through educational and training programs. If we are armed politically, economically, and educationally prepared then we cannot be refused a seat at the table.

The Jamaican Canadian Association
35 Years of service and commitment

JCA is now offering advertising at low rates.

IN FOCUS has a wide circulation inside and outside the Caribbean community. For more information please call (416) 746-5772.

Passings.....

The staff and members of the Jamaican Canadian Association would like to send their deepest condolences to staff members Allyson Collymore on loss of her father, and Stephnie Payne whose mother recently passed away.

IN FOCUS

is published by the Jamaican Canadian association, 995 Arrow Rd., North York, Ontario, M9M-2Z5, Telephone

(416) 746-5772, Fax: (416) 746-7035

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Newsletter Layout: Robert Small

Letters and submissions welcome. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit materials for length.

President's report

by Herman Stewart

At the time of this report we will have approximately one week remaining with respect to our car raffle. As you are aware, the draw will take place at a fundraising dance at the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) Auditorium on Saturday, August 29th. We have distributed approximately 25,000 tickets and sales are going well. It is our hope to sell a minimum of 20,00 which would result in a net profit of \$70,000.

We will be holding an 'open house' on Saturday August 22 between 11:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. We have invited CHRY radio to do their broadcast from our centre during this time period.

I am urging you to support both fundraising activities.

We are putting the finishing touches on our proposal to the banks for a construction loan To qualify for the loan,

we will need "cash on hand" of \$260,000. In order to meet this requirement we will need to sell a minimum of 30,000 tickets. If we sell only 20,000 tickets we will have approximately \$210,000 which is less than the amount required by the bank. I am optimistic that we will still qualify for the loan. If we do not, then we will go ahead with our "Plan B" which is to use whatever money we have to at least finish a banquet facility. I am making a final appeal to all our members and supporters who have not yet taken any tickets to sell to do so now. You still have a week to go- "Our community homeless without a centre." As a long established community we need

a place to call our own.

I am pleased to report that the Ontario government under whose portfolio the education portion of our tax bill falls has exempted us from this bill. We have also been exempted from paying the municipal portion which will result in total saving of \$37,000 per year. This will enable us to better manage our construction loan.

We met with Citizenship Minister, Isabel Bassett, to discuss a number of issues including human rights and funding for our community centre renovations.

Don't forget the membership meeting on Sunday, August 30th.

I hope you are having an enjoyable summer.

Did You Know????

What date did the following members meet to strategize about the JCA and its constitution?

1. a) January 5, 1962
b) February 14, 1963
c) September 23, 1962
2. Do you know which of the following 6 are part of the group of founding members?
Robert Chin, Barbara Thomas, Amy Nelson, Milton Cook, Frank Taylor, Bromley Armstrong, Chester Ujene Ray, Monique Saldeba, Violet Carter, Janine Persaud, Mavis Magnus, Sandra Martin, Roy Williams, Annette Williams, George King, Basil Baxter
3. Where did JCA have its very first meeting?
a) Dawes Rd.
b) JCA Centre (Dupont)
c) YMCA
d) JCA Centre (Arrow Rd.)

Answers: 1. Sept. 23, 1962 2. Amy Nelson, Bromley Armstrong, Violet Carter, Mavis Magnus, Roy Williams, George King 3. YMCA

Executive Director Bits & Bites

by Haari Abou Korrat

New Programs - The JCA recently launched a Parenting Program - Healthy Babies (Age 0-12) which will focus on parenting to expectant mothers, with special emphasis on children being abused or who have witnessed abuse in the home. The program is comprised of three components 1) Parenting; 2) Home Care and 3) Child and Family Counselling. Assistance will be provided in areas of health & nutrition; pre-natal and post-natal development; child disciplinary issues; physical growth and development issues in infancy. The program is currently being conducted 2.5 days per week, and is being funded for the next two years by United Way.

JCA will also be launching a Meals on Wheels program in partnership with York West Meals on Wheels this fall. Our seniors and other members of our community who are in need of this service will be provided with culturally specific nutritional meals. You can help, let us know of anyone

who is in need of this service. More information will be provided on this program in the next *In Focus*.

Also in the works - the Leaders in Partnership (L.I.P.) project with Police Division 31 for delinquent and "at-risk" youth 6-18 which will focus on delinquency, violence in schools, developing adequate relations with teachers and adults; effective peer relationships and appropriate conduct for the school and community. Dependent on funding, a fall start date is anticipated for this program.

Recreation - Also coming in September dance classes- Calypso, Reggae and Latin (Merenge, Salsa etc.) lessons at beginners and intermediate level. For more information or to register call 746-5772 X221. Instruction will be provided by professional dancers.

Caribana- Unfortunately JCA was unable to participate in the 1998 Caribana parade due to late confirmation from the Caribana office. We first made contact with Caribana at the end of May, but it was not until mid July that formal confirmation of acceptance was received. A letter was sent to the Caribana Committee expressing our regrets in participating in the parade this year and our interest to be included in 1999.

Volunteers - We are avidly seeking volunteers to work with some of our programs. If you are able to provide 2 or 3 hours per week during the day we invite you to call our volunteer coordinator Wednesday through Friday 9 - 4:30 p.m. at 746-5772 ex 231.

Hours of Operation - In keeping with the needs of our community effective September 14, our office hours will be 8:30 to 6 p.m Monday to Thursday and Fridays 9:00-5:00pm.

Lend a Helping Hand!!

by the Fundraising Committee

The amalgamation of the bingo and social activities under the umbrella of fundraising has increased the challenges of the committee. The issues related to this change, are not related to the tasks themselves, but the lack of support which is needed to implement the activities. I am therefore, appealing to you, to lend your support. Without your help we will not be able to plan in advance; to act on opportunities; or to participate in the type fundraising events that increase profits.

If you are not able come to a

meeting you can help us from your home; If you are not good at ticket sales, you can help to circulate flyers; or you can help with follow-up telephone calls; If you can give support to the Bingo Fundraising: A Friday night, or Saturday night; contact Miah Bailey at 416-444-1270, or Byron Carter 905-509-9128

I can only ask you for your support, and wait patiently for your response. But, keep in mind we cannot maintain our height in flight with just "one" wing.

"Love can never be found inside of a fist!"

The JCA Violence Against Women Program

Services are free and confidential.

Immediate appointments.

Contact:

Rita McLean (416) 746-5772



JCA members and participants had a "run for their money" during the 16th Annual Fundraising Walk-A-Thon last May. To date more than a \$11,000 has been collected.

Membership Committee

By Francella Moore, Membership Services Chair

There was plenty of fun in the sun this summer, when JCA held its annual picnic on Sunday, July 5 at Christie Park in Hamilton. With three bus loads of picnic goers, ideal weather, and a park equipped for swimming, boating and other attractions, the event was once again a success.

While some were busy checking out the sights, others decided to put their skills to the test and join the games. After a good fight, congratulations went to the women who were hailed this year's TUG-OF-WAR champions. And look out for the names of the Toronto team, inscribed on a trophy at JCA, after they conquered the Mississauga team during their domino

tournament.

Let's not forget the afternoon's highlight, the dance contest where contestants and spectators alike could enjoy the music. In the end, there were three winners representing each age category, including a talented little two-year old contestant who stole the show. Special thanks also to Miss Jamaica Canada 1997, Tamika Wilson, who not only joined the fun but handed out prizes.

Identical to last year's picnic, we made a profit of \$800. However there is still plenty of

work to be done. The membership drive will begin September to October. We are looking for your help to recruit new members. Tell a friend, family member or a co-worker.

RE MINDER : Please inform us if you know of a member who is sick, passed away or need a visit from the Visitation Group.

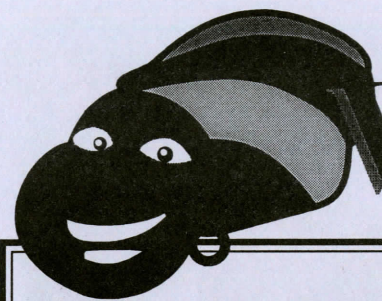
If you have not received any mailings or calls from us informing you of our events, do not hesitate to call the office and leave your complete address and telephone number so that we may update our records.

Invitation to attend Open house

An open house will be held at the JCA Centre, on Saturday, August 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All members and supporters are encouraged to join us with their families and friends for a fun-

filled day of special events. As our last big event to increase tickets sales on the raffle, the car will be on display as an added feature in

publicizing the JCA Centre. Please mark your calendar and bring a friend. We need your support.



Women's Space

Women Moving Forward in JCA - A 5 Year Plan!

Part 1 of 2

For the past 10 years JCA's Women's Committee has been planning and implementing a range of activities and events covering a variety of issues impacting Black women such as health care, housing and violence against women. The Committee continues to strive in its aims to be a relevant and effective resource for women in the Association and the African Canadian community as a whole.

In its endeavour to remain relevant and effective, the Committee has evolved its work to include a more global perspective on the situation of Black women in the development of its workplan. This has led the Committee to come up with a 5-Year Action Plan which was presented to the JCA Board of Directors in 1997 and to the membership at this past Annual

General Meeting.

The 5-Year Action Plan is based on the United Nations, "Platform For Action (PFA)" which was adopted at the Fourth World

"The committee continues to strive in its aims to be a relevant and effective resource for women in the Association and the African-Canadian community as a whole"

Conference For Women, held in Beijing, China in 1995. At this conference, the fourth in a series of conferences convened by the United Nations to look at the

situation of women and women's equality rights around the world, it was reaffirmed that "women's rights are human rights" and that "women hold up half the sky." The PFA adopted by 189 member states of the United Nations (including Canada) sets out the actions to be undertaken by governments for twelve (12) critical areas of concerns affecting the equality rights of women and the girl child. These include: women and armed conflict, human rights of women, women and wealth, violence against women, women and poverty, women and the economy, education and training for women, the girl child, women and the media, women and the environment, women in power and decision making, and institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women. The PFA went on to declare that "The human rights of women and the girl are universal human rights" and that "their protection is the first responsibility of the government."

Women's Committee
presents a

"WEEKENDERS FASHION PARTY"

on

Saturday September 12, 1998

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

JCA Centre

call (416) 746-5772 or

Eunice Graham (416) 443-8888 Ext 684

HERSTORY

ROSEMARY BROWN, a Jamaican, was the first Black women to hold office in any Canadian Parliament. Elected to the Legislature of British Columbia in 1972, she was reelected three times.

VIDEO ON WIFE ASSAULT- A SUCCESS!!!

By Rita McLean

The Jamaican Canadian Association and Tropicana Community Services were very proud of the debut of the video "Violent Night" at the North York Board of Education on June 12, 1998. A full house and over two years of hard work made this first ever drama documentary video to address wife assault in the Black Caribbean homes a victorious launch.

Introductions were made by the First Vice-President of the Jamaican Canadian Association, Pauline Thomlinson. A pleasant and inspirational evening was hosted by Karlene Nation of C F T O Television

Special Guest Speakers included, Joan Grant-Cummings, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) who spoke on the impact

of spousal abuse and violence within the family unit. Allan Jones from Jones and Jones), gave a presentation on Wife Assault from a Cultural Perspective. Greetings were given by Bernadette Hood, Women's Health in Women's Hands and Diana Abraham, Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. The gathering also heard from Ms. Haari Abou Korrat, Executive Director of JCA who gave an overview of the JCA's Violence Against Women Programme and Sharon Shelton, Executive Director of Tropicana Community Services who spoke on Culturally Appropriate Counselling Services and overview of video by

Rita McLean, Project Co-ordinator.

The evening was concluded with many echoing praises "the video was an excellent effort to help reduce the incidence of violence within the home". The men also expressed themselves that they would like to start a group for the abusers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee, especially Pam Powell and Charmine Crawford, focus groups, other agencies, the community and the positive response from the media and every one who helped to make the project a worth while endeavour a success. Copies of "Violent Night" can be ordered through JCA at (416) 746-5772 and Tropicana at (416) 439-9009.

Serving the Caribbean and Black Community

BREAKING THE CYCLE - A WORKSHOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Sponsored by the Jamaican Canadian Association

WHERE: DRIFTWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE (4401 Jane St.)

DATE: August 26, 1998

TIME: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

One women's story: Breaking the Cycle, Video on Wife Assault, Group Discussion, Display of Materials, and Information

To register call Rita at JCA 746-5772 Ext. 226

A Camp "Hello!"

By Carlean Morgan, Family Service Worker

While the JCA Summer Camp has been in existence for over a decade, each year we look at new and better ways to meet the needs of our young people and serve our community. For us, that means providing programs that are affordable; and planning activities that are as enjoyable as they are educational. In fact, this year our summer line-up included an outing to Wild Water Kingdom, outstanding guest

speakers, swimming and exploring the history of our Caribbean and African Canadian leaders. Hope to see your children and grandchildren next year!

A special thanks goes to the United Way and the North York Board of Education, without their help, this year's summer camp would not be possible.

Caribbean-Canadian Seniors

995 Arrow Road

Tues. & Thurs., 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Our activities Include:

arts and crafts, choral group, discussions, seminars and field trips. Come and meet people who will treat you like family and a friend!!

For more information call

(416) 746-5772

BACK TO SCHOOL and the JCA

By Annette King, "Strategies for Our Success" Coordinator

For most parents, the final weeks of summer mean rushing to malls, stocking up on school supplies and clothes, finding affordable childcare, and somehow squeezing a few days in with the kids. But before we all get flustered by the optimism the beginning of school brings, you might want to take a moment to ask yourself what exactly are we getting prepared for....

It was just last October, when parents across Ontario were tossed into a showdown between the teachers and government of this province. A fight that many believed the teachers lost, but in reality the educational system that we had come to know and trust for our children was the "casualty of war". Even now as mall displays echo

a "Back to School" theme, the threat of another teacher walk-out loom ominously over the battlefield.

Nonetheless, as parents, community members and as an organization it is our responsibility to see that the priority in schools, is in fact our children.

That's why this school year, in response to the overwhelming concern, the JCA supported by the North York Board of Education is pleased to introduce it's newest School Support Program, subtitled the "Strategies for Our Success" Program (S.O.S.). Offered in over 7 schools across North York, it will

promote academic achievement to students between the ages of 6-15.

The S.O.S. program, designed with the needs, cultural experiences and learning styles of and Caribbean and African Canadian children, will teach positive, social leadership and study skills through in-class workshops, after-school homework clubs, parent information seminars, and the existing Saturday Morning Tutorial Program at the JCA.

Although the way our children are taught this year may not be the same, the way our children learn is. A school is only as good as it's students; a student is only as good as it's educators. Be part of your child's education, in fact be part of our program. For more information call (416) 746-5772 Ext. 238.

Futurenet - Fundraising

Fund raising Project for the Jamaican Canadian Association

In recent years, the Internet has become a vast source of information. From students to business people. At Visual Arts we intend to provide an avenue for the Caribbean Community to benefit from this new medium of communication. We are pleased to be able to be of some assistance not only to the JCA, but the Caribbean community in general, by providing internet access and other related services. Here is how it will benefit the JCA.

By fully registering members and associates with Visual Arts Internet access. We will make monthly donations to JCA.

Example

- 50 members on line \$100 to Jamaican Canadian Association monthly.
- 100 members on line \$200 to Jamaican Canadian Association monthly.
- 200 members on line \$400 to Jamaican Canadian Association monthly.
- 300 members on line \$600 to Jamaican Canadian Association monthly.
- 400 members on line \$800 to Jamaican Canadian Association monthly.
- 500 members on line \$1000 to Jamaican Canadian Association monthly.
- 1000 members on line \$2000 to Jamaican Canadian Association monthly.
- ????? the Sky is the limit??

Visual Technologies

18 Strathearn Ave., Suite 1C North Brampton, Ontario, L6T 4X9

Tel:(905) 458-4461 Fax:(905) 458-7070 1-800-486-0993

E-mail: Sullivan01@Net Channel.Net

Independence Celebrations

By Francella Moore



Jamaican Canadians honour two monumental milestones. On Saturday, August 8, the Association not only celebrated Jamaica over 36 years of Independence, but observed the 36th anniversary of providing services to the community. The celebration was held at the JCA Centre, 995 Arrow Road, North York.

The evenings festivities, were highlighted by the presence of our president Herman Lamont, who brought greetings on behalf of the Prime Minister of Jamaica. Honoured guests were Sadie Harrison who was presented with a 25 year Volunteer Service award, and Winston Brown, was the proud recipient of the Presidents Award.

Francella Moore (Membership

Chair) and Cyndi Anderson (Treasurer) were the organizers of this successful event, and does reflect the committees dedication. However, this event does magnify the urgent need to increase our fundraising activities, which will enable us to begin renovations this year.

We appreciate the support from all of our members, supporters, their families and friends who came out on August 8th "to show our building proud". We are all anxiously awaiting that very special day when we will all sing the Jamaican anthem with great pride in the "new" JCA.

**Services
available for
newly-arrived
immigrants!!**

Call the JCA at
(416) 746-5772

Offices in
North York
and
Scarborough

Upcoming Events....

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, August 22, 1998

QUARTERLY MEETING

Sunday, August 30, 1998

SENIOR'S DINNER

Sunday, September 20, 1998

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

October & November

CHRISTMAS GRANDMARKET

Saturday, November 28, 1998

QUARTERLY MEETING

Sunday, November 29, 1998

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Thursday, December 31, 1998

Worth Repeating.....

After many months, the JCA has triumphed over yet another hurdle. The JCA's application for the cancellation of education taxes has been approved by the Ministry of Finance. A letter received from the Honourable Ernie Eves, on July 7, 1998 stated "..... under subsection 257.6 (3) of the Education Act..... The cancellation of taxes with respect to this property will remain in effect so long as it continues to be covered by the City of Toronto's cancellation by-law."

1998 INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA RT. HON P.J. PATTERSON QC. MP

1998 INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA RT. HON P.J. PATTERSON QC. MP

Once again, Jamaicans at home and abroad pause to celebrate our national Independence Day.

Our national identity as Jamaicans will be determined, not so much by our location as an island in the Caribbean Sea, but by that which makes us truly unique. Without doubt, this is our cultural distinctiveness.

Since the last Independence Day, the people of Jamaica have returned my Administration to serve for another term in office. We have been given a mandate for a new social order that is just and equitable.

It is a mandate to build a quality society which permits all our

citizens to enjoy those conditions that permit their full material and spiritual well-being.

Jamaicans are proud beneficiaries of a vibrant democratic tradition, which predates the nation's independence. My Administration remains deeply committed to the strengthening, the broadening and the deepening of this democratic tradition, as we build on the foundations of the rule of law and due respect for the process which affords a place for all who contend for political office.

The building of the quality society on which we have embarked has a place for all Jamaicans to contribute their energy, skills, creativity and their knowledge.

As we move towards the close of this century and to the dawning of the next, let us resolve as a people, to tap into our creativity, to produce solutions to the many challenges which we face.

Let us approach this observance of our Independence with optimism for the future and confidence that we are indeed proceeding along the correct path.

I wish for all a happy and
memorable Independence!

Thanks!!

The JCA would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations:

Bell Canada, Petro Canada, United Way Donors Choice and also everyone who contributed to the Association in kind and cash.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Would you like to help
an adult learn to read
and write? Can you spare
2 - 4 hours a week? Do
you live in the west end
of Toronto? Volunteer
tutors needed! Tutor
Training- February 21 and
28, 1998. For more infor-
mation please call
ALFA at
(416) 652-3652.

Sport York

Are you ready for action and excitement? Do nailbiting games and 'edge of your seat' climaxes sound like fun? Sport York invites you to be there when York's interuniversity sports teams take to the fields, courts and ice this September. Check out any one home game, FREE, with a Family Day pass, which admits two adults and three children under 19 years of age. It's the year of the fan and it's time to have fun.

Want to meet the players or the coach? Is there an autograph or dressing room tour you want to have? Give us a call and it can all be arranged with advanced notice. The high energy play and exciting atmosphere can only be bettered by the contests, giveaways and prize packages offered at most

Sport York games. You too can walk away a winner.

When many of the 30 York teams in basketball, football, track, rugby, volleyball and more, take to the field in September we will be there cheering them on and with over 100 home games to be played at York the intensity and determination of the 'Red and White' will be unmatched. When the stands are packed and the crowd is roaring, be there and witness when players become legends.

For more information or to get your FREE Family Day pass, please call Laurie Lyle or Brad Norris @ (416) 736-5982. Hope to see you in the stands this season.

Travel

Discovering Jamaican Roots in Canada by Neil Armstrong

The Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia is a organization in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia; its mandate is to protect, preserve and promote the rich and often forgotten Black culture of this nation.

About to celebrate their 15th anniversary this September, I couldn't think of a better time to explore this great and monumental site.

When I visited the centre, I felt at home sitting in the midst of its reference library reading a Jamaican journal, a magazine to which I had subscription in Jamaica. Not only were there books from Jamaica at the Centre, there was also a

huge map on a wall showing our migration to and from Nova Scotia.

In 1796, nearly 600 Maroons exiled from Jamaica arrived in the Maritimes. They settled on approximately 500 acres of Dartmouth land purchased with funds from the Jamaican government. The Maroons faced miserable conditions and many deserted their dreams in Halifax just at the turn of the century in 1800, and headed for Sierra Leone.

Today, of those Maroons who opted to stay in Halifax, there

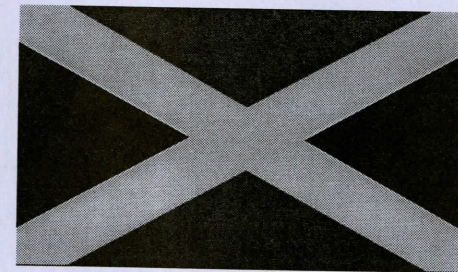
are historic sites throughout this quiet city documenting their heroic struggle and migration. In fact, after years of pressure, the government has recognized the contributions of Maroons in building Canada's most visited historic site, the Citadel.

I would encourage anyone visiting Nova Scotia to check out the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia and discover the presence of African Canadians in that province since Mathieu Da Costa set foot there in 1606. Call 1-800-465-0767 for more information about the Centre.

Vive le "The Reggae Boyz"

Excerpted from JamCan CanJam 1998 Souvenir Edition

No one expected the Reggae Boyz to come away with the World Cup. They did play to the best of their ability they improved with every game and had a very good match against Japan which they won 2-1. What struck me was the spirit of the team. The team went to France with a winning attitude. This does not mean that they felt that they would win the Cup, but winning is not necessarily on the score board. Winning is found in inter-relationship and new found friendships. Winning is attracting tourist to the Caribbean shores. Winning is participating in the grandest showcase in the world. Winning is doing the best one can. Wining is uniting the Country.



REMINDER

Keep your membership dues current. Dues are still \$20 per individual. \$30 per family. To find out more about the

JCA and member activities call
(416) 746-5772.

JCA

36 YEARS STRONG!

**JOIN
US
TODAY!!**

Cook's Corner

Shrimp-and-Ham Jambalaya



Jambalaya is a Creole and Cajun dish served in fine restaurants all over New Orleans and Louisiana. This recipe is so versatile that almost anything can be used in it.

2	cups water	1/2	cup chopped celery
1	teaspoon salt	1/4	cup finely chopped green pepper
1	cup short-grain white rice	1	tablespoon finely chopped parsley
2	lbs. medium raw shrimp	3/4	teaspoon powdered cloves
6	Tablespoons butter	1/2	teaspoon dried thyme
1 1/2	cups of finely chopped garlic	1/2	teaspoon ground red hot pepper
2	16 oz. can Italian plum tomatoes, chopped	1/4	teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
3	tablespoons tomato paste	1	teaspoon salt
		1	lb. lean smoked ham, cut into cubes

Place water, salt and rice in a medium saucepan. bring to a boil, then lower heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes without stirring, or until rice has absorbed liquid. Fluff the rice with fork, cover, and set aside. Cook shrimp separately by placing it in boiling water until it appears pink. (5-10 minutes- **Do not allow water to boil again**) Shell and set aside.

Melt butter over moderate heat in heavy casserole. Add onions and garlic and cook for about 5 minutes, or until they are soft but not brown. Add tomatoes and tomato paste and stir over moderate heat until the vegetables are tender and the mixture is thick enough to hold its shape lightly in the spoon.

Add the ham and cook for 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Stir in the shrimp and, when they are heated, add the rice. Stir over moderate heat until the mixture is hot. Taste for seasoning.

Yield: 8 servings

HEY KIDS!

Did you know.... that the Maroons were a group of runaway slaves in Jamaica who fought the white army. They ran away to the hills to live because they did not want to be slaves. Their old slave master sent soldiers to catch them. The Maroons fought very hard. It was difficult to catch them, so the slave masters decide to leave them alone.

Can you help this runaway slave make it to the hills (Cockpit Country)? Look out for the army and stay away from the river. you may hide out in the cave if tired.

